

**REMARKS**

Reconsideration of the objections and rejections based on the arguments of the Rule 116 Amendment filed February 13, 2006 is requested.

Claims 59, 61, 63, 68-69, 71, 73, 78-85 and 91-123 are pending. The nonelected claims 92-97 were withdrawn from consideration by the Examiner. Applicant requests rejoinder of the withdrawn claims directed to methods upon an indication that a product claim is allowable.

SEQ ID NO: 26 is added to the Sequence Listing submitted herewith. The leader sequence of SEQ ID NO: 13 is the nucleotide sequence that encodes the signal peptide of SEQ ID NO: 26. Paper and computer readable forms of the Sequence Listing do not add new matter, and their contents are the same. It is respectfully submitted that the attached complies with 37 CFR § 1.821 et seq. Otherwise, prompt notice of any defects in the Sequence Listing is earnestly solicited and additional time is requested to comply.

Applicant submitted on February 13, 2006 a verified translation of the priority application IT RM98A000478. Acknowledgement by the Examiner that the claim for foreign priority benefit is perfected would be appreciated.

Applicants earnestly solicit an early and favorable examination on the merits. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned if any further information is required.

Respectfully submitted,

**NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.**

By: 

Gary P. Tanigawa  
Reg. No. 43,180

901 North Glebe Road, 11th Floor  
Arlington, VA 22203-1808  
Telephone: (703) 816-4000  
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100